



U Capstone – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost to sponsor a senior Capstone design project?

The cost is \$15,000. This covers the cost of running the program, materials and supplies for the project (~\$5,000), a scholarship to the students (~\$1,000 per student).

What if \$5,000 isn't sufficient to cover the cost of materials and supplies for the project?

The sponsoring company will need to cover any material and supply costs above \$5,000 for the project.

Who owns the intellectual property generated by the project?

The company will own any intellectual property generated by the project.

Will students and faculty that work on the project be subject to a non-disclosure agreement?

The confidentiality agreement is part of the research agreement with the university. If the sponsoring company would like a non-disclosure agreement in place before the research agreement is in place, we can arrange that. Please contact Shad Roundy at MECapstone@mech.utah.edu or 801-581-4304 or a faculty member with whom you have spoken about the project.

Will the team have a faculty advisor?

Yes, each team has a faculty advisor and a liaison at the sponsoring company. We will work with you on finding an appropriate faculty advisor for the project.

What is the timeline for projects?

Capstone design covers two semesters, or approximately 8 months. We run two Capstone design cycles, one starting in Fall semester and one starting in the Spring semester. The Fall semester cycle usually begins the last week of August, Design Day, where the students showcase their projects, is usually the third week of April, and final reports are usually due the last day of classes in early May. The Spring semester cycle usually begins the second week of January, Design Day is near the end of November, and final reports are due early in December.

What is the deadline for submitting projects starting in the Fall and Spring?

For projects starting the Fall, the submission deadline is April 1. For projects starting in the Spring, the submission deadline is October 1. If you can't meet these deadlines, please contact us and we will discuss options with you.

How many students work on a team?

Teams are from 4 to 6 students.

What space is available for students?

Students and their faculty advisors generally arrange their own space for Capstone projects. These are often housed in department labs. In addition, there is a small amount of space dedicated for senior design projects. If the hardware for the project is very large or requires extensive space, it may be necessary for the company to provide some space. Please contact us if you think this might be an issue.

What is turned in by the students at the end of the project?

Students showcase their work in a tradeshow-like format during Design Day. They are also required to turn in a final report. Typically, they provide the sponsor with a working prototype and a documentation package (i.e. CAD drawings, code, use instructions, etc.).